harmful effects of iodisation of salt. However, the Government decision which is based on the outcome of a National Survey is supported by scientist and experts as well as the World Health Organization and UNICEF as a measure to safeguard public health and to prevent and control mental and physical retardation and lowered IQ in growing children. At present, 92 countries in the world are implementing Salt Iodization Programmes for control and prevention of Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

(f) No, Sir.

Awareness programme to control HIV/AIDS

591. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NACO has started Red Ribbon Express as part of its awareness programme to control HIV/AIDS in India;

(b) if so, what are the aims and objectives of the programme; and

(c) the route map of this awareness campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The government has decided to start 4 special trains namely "Red Ribbon Expresses" from four different directions i.e. from Jammu (J&K), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) and Tinsukia (Assam), with an aim to generate awareness on HIV/AIDS issues across the country. These special trains will move on different routes and cover a distance of approx. 6,000 kms each and hold variety of awareness programmes in over 29000 villages/urban areas. Each train would run for 6 months and finally reach Nagpur to conclude the journey. The objectives of running the Red Ribbon Express are:—

- To involve a large cross section of youth for health and HIV/AIDS awareness and orient them to work on community health issues with special reference to HIV/AIDS;
- To coordinate among various agencies working for development, health and prevention of HIV/AIDS; and
- To involve local governance institutions, especially Panchayati Raj Institutions & Municipal Corporation in AIDS control initiatives.

(c) Tentative route chart is enclosed at Statement.

Statement

Tentative Route Chart of awareness Campaign to Control HIV/AIDS in India

Route No	From	To	Route
1	Jammu	Nagpur	Jammu-Gurdaspur-Amritsar-Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur-Kapurthala-Ludiana-Ferozpur-Faridkot-Bhatinda-Sangrur--Patiala-Una-Ambala-Panipat-Jind-Rohtak-Bhiwani-Hissar-South Delhi-Gurgaon-Rewari-Alwar-Mathura-Agra-Aligarh-Bulandshahr-Ghaziabad-Meerut-Haridwar-Dehradun-Bijnor-Chandausi-Rampur-Nanital-Bareilly-Shajahanpur-Gonda-Gorakhpur-Ballia-Varanasi-Faizabad-Lucknow-Sultanpur-Allahabad-Kanpur-Etawah-Dholpur-Gwalior-Jhansi-Banda-Satna-Jabalpur-Guna- Ujjain-Indore-Bhopal-Hosangabad-Betul-Chhindwara-Nagpur
2	Jodhpur	Nagpur	Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Barmer-Ajmer-Bikaner-Sri Ganga Nagar-Hanuman Garh-Nagore-Jaipur-Bharatpur-Swai Madhopur-Kota-Chittorgah-Neemuch-Ujjain-Ratlam-Godhara-Nadiad-Ahmedabad-Mahesana-Bhuj-Rajkot-Jamnagar-Porbandar-Junagarh-Surendra Nagar-Amreli-Vadodara-Surat-Valsad-Mumbai-Ratnagiri Punji-Madgaon-Belgaum-Chikmagalur-Hassan-Mysore-Bangalore-Tumkur-Ananthapur-Bellary-Dharwad-Sangli-Kohlapur-Pune-Ahmednagar-Nasik-Jalgaon-Buldhana-Akola-Amravati-Wardha-Nagpur
3	Tinsukia	Nagpur	Tinsukia-Dibrugarh-Jorhat-Karbi Along-Naogaon-Goalpara-Kokrajhar-Jalpaiguri-Burdwan-Nadiya-Murshidabad-North 24 Pargnas-Howrah-Bankura-Purulia-Burdwan-Birhum-Kishanganj-Katihar-Khagaria-Samastipur-Muzaffarpur-East Champaran-Vaishali-Begusarai-Sahibganj-Bhagalpur-Munger-Gaya-Patna-Buxur-Aurangabad-Garwa-Palamu-Hazaribagh-Giridih-Dhanbad-Ranchi-East Chaibasa-Baipada-Balasore-Cuttack-Dhenkanal-Puri-Ganjam-Raigada-Bolangir-Sambalpur-Raigarh-Bilaspur-Raipur-Durg-Rajnandgaon-Gondia-Nagpur
4	Kanyakumari	Nagpur	Kanyakumari-Mangalore-Coimbatore-Erode-Salem-Dharmapuri-Dindigul-Madurai-

Route No	From	To	Route
			Tirunelvelli-Tiruchirapalli-Cuddalore-Pondicherry-Kanjipuram-Chennai-Vellore-Chittoor-Guntur-Nellore-Vijayawada-Krishna-West Godavari-East Godavari-Khammam-Warangal-Nalgonda-Hyderabad-Mehboobnagar-Kurnul-Raichur-Gulbarga-Bijapur-Sholapur-Sangali-Bidar-Rangareddy-Karimnagar-Adilabad-Chandarpur-Yavatmal-Nagpur

New AIDS vaccine

592. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Hadassa University Medical Centre of Israel has developed a vaccine for HIV/AIDS for first time;

(b) if so, the details of the research done by Hadassa University; and

(c) what exactly is the difference between AIDS cocktail medicine that is now being given to patients and the vaccine developed by the said University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, it has been reported that an Israeli research team at Hadassah Medical Center has developed a vaccine, and it has been claimed that it strengthen body's immune system against the auto-immune aftereffects of HIV infection. The Hadassah study was conducted between 1998—2002 with an additional two-year monitoring period. Seven patients participated in the study out of which five responded positively to the vaccine. Extended Clinical trails are yet to be conducted. However, the Government of India has not received any official information so far.

(c) The AIDS Cocktail medicine are basically different triple drug combinations, that have been shown to improve the quality of life as well prolong the life. It is also known as Highly Active Anti Retroviral Therapy (HAART). Israeli vaccine only complements HAART. However, as the study was conducted only on seven patients therefore, extended clinical trial are needed before commenting upon its effectiveness.